

PEOPLE & THINGS: By ATTICUS

TRUCK down with a "summer" cold, I decided that it was time to learn something from the Cold Research Unit at Salisbury, who have been labouring on my affliction since 1946, but their Public Relations Officer in London could only tell me that no preventive measures have yet been devised.

He informed me that colds are always caught from other people. They are caused by a virus and transmitted by bacteria. Draughts, wet socks, bad weather and changes of temperature do not cause colds. Women are considerably more susceptible than men. Eskimos do not catch colds except on visits to "civilisation," when they are felled like oxen, and chimpanzees are the only other animals sufferers.

None of these facts was of help in getting rid of my cold, but it did occur to me that in eight years the Cold Research Unit must have come to a lot of sensible conclusions on how to avoid a cold, and I set to work on one as quickly as possible. Colds being a miserable and expensive national affliction, I think it would be very humane and desirable for the Ministry of Health to issue an instruction statement giving us their best advice up to date, even though, in terms of strict scientific knowledge, their findings may strike the experts as pretty small beer compared with isolating the virus.

Polar Epics

WHEN the Leif Viking, of Scandinavian Airlines, last week completed the first commercial flight over the North Pole, it followed in the wake of Roald Amundsen and I now hear that a film of the explorer's life has been made in Oslo and will be shown to the Explorers' Club in New York this month and later in London by the Royal Geographical Society.

The film includes scenes from Scott's journey to the Pole, which I believe have never been shown publicly before, the North-West Passage by the Gjoa, Amundsen's departure in search of the North-East Passage of Nansen, the North-East Passage of the Maud, and Amundsen's South Pole journey in the Fram. And it will include the recorded voice of Fridtjof Nansen.

All the scenes are made from the original film taken during these journeys, and a picture was made possible by the chance discovery in the Fram, which is exhibited at Bygdyen on the

In the attempts by the flying boats M24 and M25 and by the airship Notre Dame.



London's New Landmark (A Pigeon's Perspective)

THE City of London is one of the last refuges of the metropolitan picturesque. For those who, like myself, set great store by its small hills and secret gardens, any enhancement of its individuality is of keen interest.

I was especially glad, therefore, to come upon the new Dutch church in Austin Friars, which has been designed by Mr. Arthur Bailey and will be opened on June 11 by Princess Irene of the Netherlands. The building occupies the site of the earlier Dutch church which was built in the reign of Edward VI and was destroyed in 1940.

Dr van Apeldoorn (the fifth Dutch rector) in the annals of the church writes: "In summer the church will be embellished with bulbs presented by Dutch growers; and, summer and winter alike, the City skyline will be embellished with a new orientation, the elegant and colorful Netherlands *fleche*, with its golden cockerel conspicuous against the sky."

The Next C.I.G.S.

IT is a pity that there is to be a party in General Sir Gerald Templer's military honour, for one would like to see his Malayan triumphs quickly repeated in other trouble spots, but there are two excellent reasons why he will not, in the meantime, take over the command of Commonwealth forces.

First of all he is suffering from amoebic dysentery, and his stay in Zurich on his way to London is to consult a Swiss specialist before starting on the long and stubborn

flight entailed in a cure of this ravaging tropical disease. Templer is a man who gives everything to the task on hand, and undoubtedly he is in need of a long rest.

Secondly, General Sir Richard Gale is such an outstanding success in Germany that there is no room for him to be relieved even by an officer of General Templer's quality.

But, after this pause in his career, it is with confidence that I predict General Templer's appointment as C.I.G.S. when Field-Marshal Sir John Harding completes his term of office in the autumn of next year.

Stakhanovite Cheers

AFTER pressing their noses against the window-panes of Western culture, the Soviet Balalaika Company is finding the elderly proletarian audiences in East Berlin rather a trial.

Organised claquees of East German "factory delegations" who think they are doing the right thing by singing rhythmic clapping employed at Comptons' and others to force Ulanova and others to give repeated encores, are trying the patience of these exquisite and sophisticated artists. As they come before the curtain for the ninth time, the critics appear perturbed and rather irritated.

A Soviet official has explained to the company that when the audience applauds items of relatively less artistic merit this is also an expression of gratitude by the public to the artists of the Soviet Union for past kindness.

The quality of some of the dancing, which was superb on the opening nights, has not unnaturally slackened off in the company's second week.

Light Reading

WE HAD the Russian Army enter Berlin, one of their first acts was the Gestapo headquarters, whose files were hurried off to Moscow.

But there was one room in the basement they did not discover. It has just been excavated by workmen clearing the site and a remarkable find has come into my hands. It is the Gestapo invasion plan for England, entitled "G. B. Secret" and, after perusing the section on our Secret Service, I shall examine with a fresh eye one or two innocent members of my club.

Steady On!

THE Gestapo were going to have a busy time for they were warned to arrest any member of a public school on the "finds that their job is to produce the English gentleman, who's never

considered philosophical problems, who hardly knows any foreign cultures and who considers Germany as the personification of everything evil, but who regards British power as indestructible. The whole public-school system is designed to produce men of the scientist who-power and unscrupulous engineers for whom mental problems are a waste of time but who understand human beings and how to rule them ruthlessly."

They were then to liquidate the heads of the Boy Scout Movement, which is a dangerous instrument of power for English culture propaganda and an excellent source of information for the British Secret Service."

Rogues Gallery

IN addition to the files of Scotland Yard, which were immediately to be seized, the Gestapo were advised that if they found difficulty in identifying leading figures in British public life on the strength of "for all and disposal," they might find it helpful to arrange an identification parade in the National Gallery, "which contains four thousand portraits of well-known British personalities, including a number of Jews."

Beating the Clock

A FEAT which has defied A generations of Oxford undergraduates is the racing of the Clarendon Church Quad while Big Tom strikes twelve. This week, when the university is to be invaded by 24 American athletes from Cornell and Pennsylvania universities a new attempt is to be made.

Americans will field Mr. Andrew Dadagian and Mr. J. Albert Seabold of Cornell while Oxford is happily placed in possessing in Mr. Derek Johnson the third Mr. Bannister who broke the thirty-two-year-old Oxford quarter-mile record of 48.6 seconds. It was in fact the previous quarter-mile holder, Bevil Rudd of South Africa, the 1924 Olympic champion, who first succeeded to break the record.

Lord Birkenhead once challenged Rudd to a post-prandial race in dinner jackets in which Rudd had to perform two circuits to the Lord High Chancellor's one. Needless to say the noble Earl found it unnecessary to proceed at more than a snail's pace.

The quad, the largest in Oxford measures 80 yards by 82 yards. Thus 324 yards and three right angle bends have to be negotiated in the 36.8 seconds taken by the un hurrying clock.